

Remarks

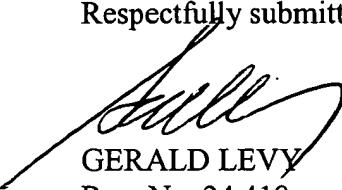
We trust that the examiner will now find this application to be in condition for allowance and reconsideration is respectfully requested. In this regard, the examiner will first note that the suggested corrections have been made to claim 16. In addition, claim 14 has been amended to overcome the new matter rejection and to make the claim consistent with Fig. 8 and the description appearing at page 8. The claim now makes it clear that the wide flange that is on one profile is sealed to one of the package walls (the bottom wall of Fig. 8) on a first side (the left side in Fig. 8) of the interlocking members and the other profile is sealed to the other wall (the top wall of Fig. 8) on the same side of the interlocking members (i.e. also on the left side) with the top profile seal being between the interlocking members and the wide flange (i.e. the top profile seal area is to the left of the interlocking members and to the right of the wide flange). That is, one profile is connected by the extended flange to one wall (i.e. the bottom wall of Fig. 8 and possibly also to the top wall) while the other profile is connected only to the other (top) wall.

The examiner has also rejected the claims as being obvious in light of Tanaka. There are three basic distinctions between the claimed invention and Tanaka. First of all, as the examiner notes, the webs are of even size in Tanaka whereas in accordance with the present invention the webs are uneven. Further, in accordance with Tanaka both profiles are connected to their associated walls on both sides of the interlocking members. In accordance with the present invention while one profile is connected to its associated bag wall on both sides of the interlocking members, the other is connected only on one side. Finally, in Tanaka the seal areas of both profiles to their associated walls line up with each other (i.e. the seal areas 32 and 34 on

the left side line up with the seal areas 32 and 34 on the right side) whereas, the present invention calls for the seal areas to be spaced apart from each other.

The claims have been amended to overcome the objections that were raised and to more clearly set forth the present invention. In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application as amended herein is now in condition for allowance. Marked up versions of the amended claims are included in an Appendix attached hereto. A relatively early notification of allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

14. (Amended) A reclosable package comprising:

a first wall and a second wall opposite said first wall;

a zipper strip for selectively opening and closing said package, said zipper strip comprising a male interlocking profile extending along an internal surface of said first wall and a female interlocking profile extending along an internal surface of said second wall;

said male interlocking profile having a male interlocking member and a male web integral therewith;

said female interlocking profile having a male interlocking member and a male web integral therewith;

said female interlocking profile having a female interlocking member and a female web integral therewith, said male interlocking member being engagable within said female interlocking member being engagable within said female interlocking member to join said male and female interlocking profiles together;

wherein one of said male and female webs is wider than the other of said male and female webs in at least one of two directions from said male and female interlocking members, the greater width of the wider of said male and female webs being at least one flange extending widthwise beyond the other of said male and female webs;

wherein said at least one flange is sealed [only] to one of said package walls, said seal being at least a first seal area spaced apart from said interlocking members on a first side of said interlocking members; and

wherein the other interlocking profile is sealed to the other package wall only at a second seal area spaced apart from said interlocking members and spaced apart from said first seal area along the width of said zipper strip said second seal area being on said first side of said interlocking members.

16. (Amended) A reclosable package according to claim 14 wherein a portion of the interlocking profile having said wider web which is not said at least one flange is separately sealed only to the same package [walls] wall as said at least one flange, said portion being spaced from said interlocking members and on a side of said interlocking members opposite to said first side.